



FACT SHEET

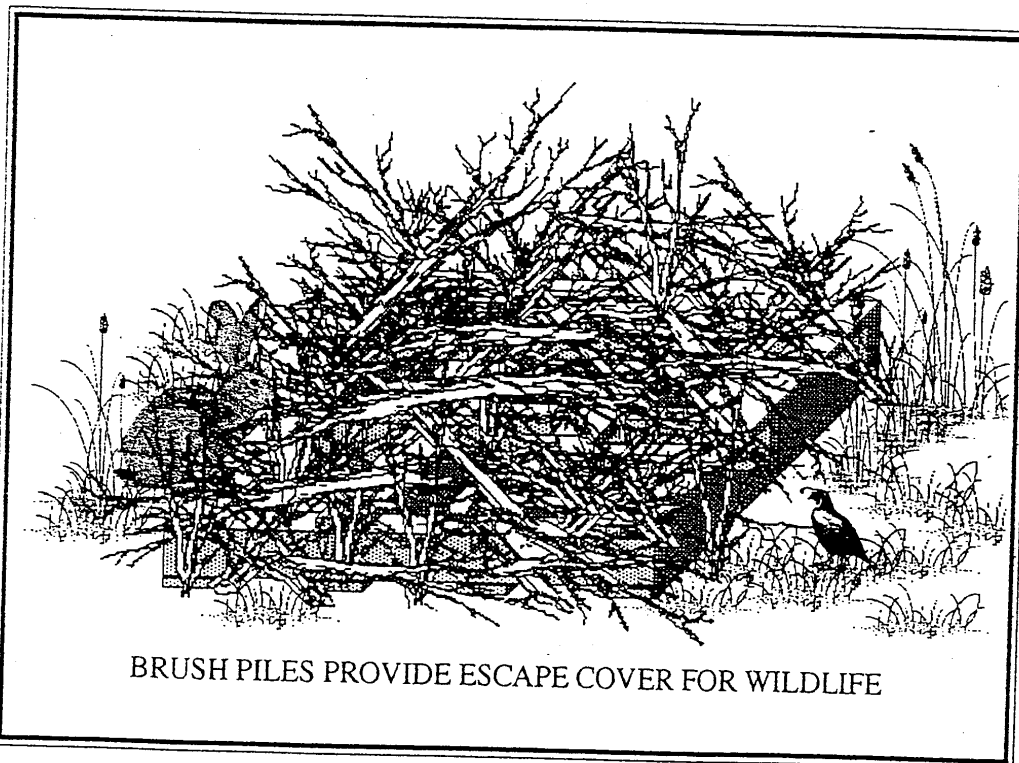
#URCD FS-18

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BRUSH PILES FOR WILDLIFE COVER

Brush piles create a safety zone for wildlife to rest or seek refuge when traveling from food to water!



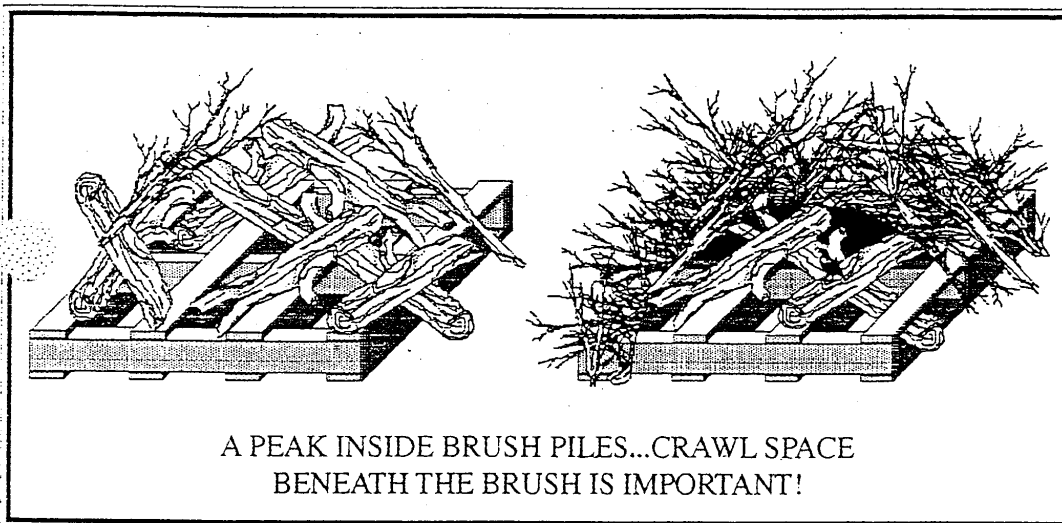
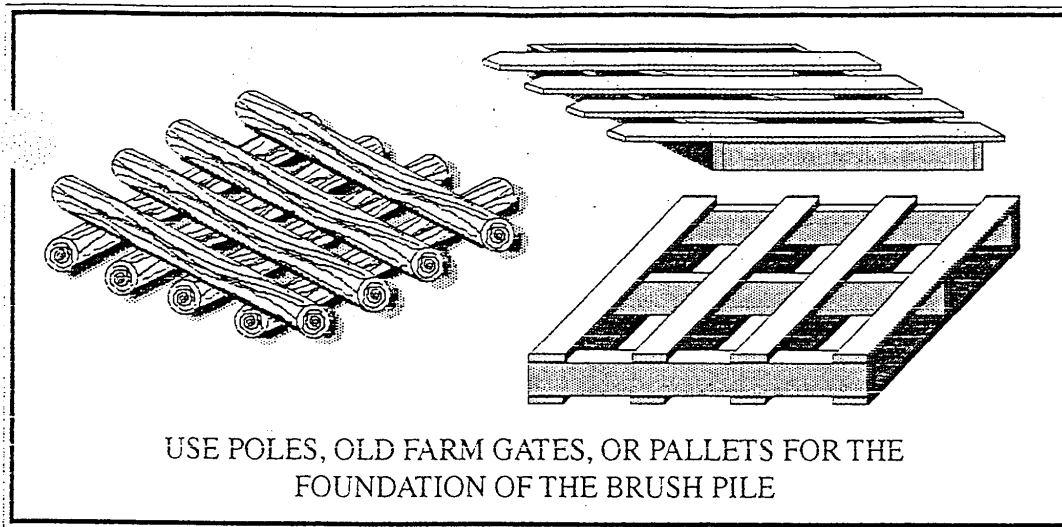
Dead vegetation in the form of brush piles provide excellent cover for wildlife. Brush piles provide shelter from the elements and protection from natural predators. Brush piles can be located near food and water, or in corridors to create runways that connect food and water.

TO CONSTRUCT BRUSH PILES

Place logs, heavy poles, old farm gates, wooden pallets or wooden frames on the ground to

provide a foundation for the brush pile. Brush piles can be placed directly on the ground; however, the foundation slows brush from settling and rotting because limbs are not in contact with the soil. This also provides space for wildlife to crawl around within the brush pile.

Pile orchard cuttings, tree trimmings, brush and limbs on top of the foundation. Begin with large branches on top of the foundation you have selected. Continue to add large branches in such a way that there are plenty of pockets or crawl



spaces for birds or small animals to move around. Branches from fig trees are particularly desirable because of their twisted growth habit that create passageways. As the pile gets larger add medium sized branches and then finish with small branches and twigs. Try to compact brush tightly to construct an impregnable fortress which will protect wildlife from natural predators such as hunting dogs and household pets. Remember, you want to keep predators out, but wildlife species you are trying to protect

cannot enter the brush pile, you've defeated its purpose.



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